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Wellington Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1944.

By R. De Veil King, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

WELLINGTON WEEKLY NEWS.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1944.

WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1944.

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(Apptd. Nov. 1926).

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WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT

Statistics for the Year 1944.

Area (in Acres)	2,186
Estimate of Resident Population, mid-year 1944	6,998
Census population, 1931	7,132
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books on December 31st, 1944	2,113
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1944	£37,610
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate, 31st December, 1944 ..	£151. 7s. 6d.

Physical Characters and Social Conditions.

The Urban District of Wellington lies between 212ft. at Tonedale in the North, and 293ft. in the region of the Cemetery, above sea level. It is built upon the triassic rocks (new red sandstone) here divisible into—(1) marl (2) sandstone (3) conglomerate (4) sand and sandstone. The town is chiefly upon sandstone. The marl is well shown in the direction of the Poole Brick Pits (just outside the District), and a narrow strip of marl crosses the Market Place extending ¼ mile to the North-West. Rockwell Green is on the marls. The sandstones make a dry permeable soil. The marl and sandstone belong to the Keuper or upper division of the new red sandstone. Gravel patches occur over a considerable part of the triassic rocks between Wellington and Sampford Arundel.

The local industries are chiefly factories for the manufacture of woollen, worsted cloth, serge, flocks, bedding and engineering works. Agriculture within and without the Urban District, and brick-making just outside the District also give employment to the inhabitants. The Census Population in 1911 was 7,633—in 1921 it was 7,212—in 1931 it was 7,132, and in 1944 it is estimated to be 6,998 (Registrar-General).

Extracts from the Vital Statistics.

Live Births—	Total	M.	F.	
Legitimate	106	54	52	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 16.8
Illegitimate ..	12	7	5	
	118	61	57	

Still Births—Total .. 2.

Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births	16.6
Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Resident Population ..	0.28

Deaths—Total .. 96.

Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Resident Population ..	13.7

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—Total .. Nil.

	Deaths.	*Rates per 1,000 Births.*
From Puerperal Sepsis ..	Nil	Nil
From other Maternal Causes ..	Nil	Nil

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—Total .	6.
Legitimate	5
Illegitimate	1
Rate for all Infants per 1,000 Live Births	50.8
Rate for Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	47.1
Rate for Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	83.3
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	17
,, Measles (all ages)	—
,, Whooping-cough (all ages)	—
,, Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	1
Rates for England and Wales as a whole:—	
Live Births per 1,000 civilian population	17.6
Still Births do. do.	0.50
Deaths from all causes do.	11.6
Maternal Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births	1.93
Infant Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births	46.0

Causes of Death During 1944.

Cause of Death	*M.*	*F.*	*Tota*
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	1	6	7
Other forms of tuberculosis	1	1	2
Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Acute infectious encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of buccal cavity, oesophagus, uterus	1	1	2
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	—	2	2
Cancer of breast	—	4	4
Cancer of all other sites	2	7	9
Diabetes	—	1	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	2	5	7
Heart disease	11	11	22
Other disease of the circulatory system	2	6	8
Bronchitis	1	5	6
Pneumonia	1	—	1
Other respiratory disease	—	—	—
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	—	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	—	1
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other digestive disease	1	1	2
Nephritis	1	—	1
Puerperal and post abortion sepsis	—	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	—	—
Premature birth	3	—	3
Congenital malformation, birth injuries, etc.	1	—	1
Suicide	—	—	—
Road traffic accidents	—	—	—
Other violent causes	2	—	2
All other causes	8	5	13
All causes—Total	41	55	96

Infant Mortality During 1944.

Cause o Death	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	2	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Misadventure	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
	3	2	1	—	6	—	—	—	—	—

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Hospitals.

Infectious Diseases.—Cases of infectious diseases are sent to the Taunton and District Joint Isolation Hospital, situated in the Borough of Taunton. The Rural District of Taunton is one the contributory authorities. Severe cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are received by the Hospital but are maintained by the County Council. Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia are admitted through and maintained by the County Council to the Puerperal Sepsis Block of the Isolation Hospital. This new Block commenced to receive cases from May, 1938.

Tuberculosis.—Cases of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis come under the County Council scheme for treatment. The Pulmonary cases are sent to Quantock Sanatorium if the disease is in an early stage and the more advanced cases are sent to Taunton Sanatorium or to the Sanatoria of Wincanton and Chard. Cases requiring Orthopaedic treatment are admitted to Chard Sanitorium or to Bath Orthopaedic Hospital. Pre-tubercular children and children with tubercular glands also come under the County Tuberculosis Scheme and are sent to Compton Bishop Children's Home, near Axbridge.

Small-pox.—Provision for the accommodation of cases of small-pox is made by the County Council at its Hospital at Cossington, near Bridgwater.

General Medical and Surgical.—The inhabitants go to the Cottage Hospital in Wellington and to the Taunton and Somerset Hospital for out-patient and in-patient treatment, and to Bristol where there are the same facilities.

Chronic Sick.—These are received into the Public Assistance Institution situated in the Urban District of Wellington, or, if full, to the Institution in the Borough of Taunton.

Mental Sick.—Cases are sent to the Mental Hospital at Cotford, in the Parish of Bishop's Lydeard.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Tuberculosis.—A Clinic is held once a week in the Borough of Taunton, at which the services of a County Tuberculosis Officer are available. In conjunction with the Clinic there is an After-Care Committee working in co-operation with the Tuberculosis Officer.

Venereal Diseases.—A combined Clinic and Treatment Centre is maintained by the County Council at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts are administered by the County Council, under whose supervision are also the midwives practising in the area. There is an excellent Maternity Home in the Urban District to which the County Council make a grant. It has 15 beds including one receiving bed, one Isolation bed, and one bed in the labour ward. The charges are £3. 10s. per week where a ward is shared, and £6. 6s. per week for a private ward. During 1944, 196 mothers were confined there, producing 197 babies.

All cases of Puerperal Pyrexia and Maternal Mortality are investigated under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme of the County Council.

Laboratory Facilities.—The County Laboratory is situated in the County Hall in the Borough of Taunton. No charge is made for the usual Bacteriological examination of swabs, blood, sputum and faeces, etc. This service is also available without charge to medical men practising in the District. Bacteriological and chemical analyses are also undertaken for the examination of milk, foods, water supplies, sewage effiuents, etc.

Ambulance Facilities.—The Wellington and District Ambulance Society, under the auspices of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, was inaugurated in 1930. There is one Ambulance, serving the Urban and Rural Districts of Wellington; both authorities make grants towards its upkeep, each authority being represented on the Society's Committee. The Ambulance service is well organised, efficient and adequate for the areas served.

Evacuee Sick Bay.—This "Sick Bay" at Avondale was still functioning at the end of 1944 and has served a very useful purpose. It is hoped that, when it is no longer required for its orgiinal purposes, a part of the premises may be retained as a Public Cleansing Station for such cases as Scabies, Impetigo and other verminous conditions to serve the Urban and Rural Districts of Wellington.

The following table shows the work done at the Sick Bay during 1944:—

IN-PATIENTS.

Admissions 120, Daily average of in-patients 5.7, No. of in-patient days 2,094

Scabies	40	Enuresis	2
Impetigenous Scabies	6	Pyrexia (U.D.)	1
Scabies and Pediculosis	10	Gastric Ulcer	1
Impetigo	10	Feruncle in Ear	2
Pediculosis	9	Conjunctivitis	1
Dermatitis (U.D.)	2	Malnutrition	1
Shingles	1	Appendicitis	1
Burns	3	Miscellaneous	28
Varicella	2		

OUT-PATIENTS.

Number treated 291. Number of out-patient attendances 1,703

Scabies	56	Boils, etc.	8
Impetigo	34	Abrasions, cuts, bruises, etc.	41
Pediculosis	14	Burns	7
Pyo-dermatitis	4	Urticaria	19
Septic infections	33	Miscellaneous	75

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—This is derived from deep seated springs found in the old red sand-stone at Westford and Payton. There is no known liability to pollution. The water (126,000 gallons daily) is collected in underground brick and cement tanks without filtration and from thence pumped into three water towers, two situated in Rockwell Green, their capacities being 100,000 gallons (constructed in 1935) and 20,000 gallons, and the other at Dark Lane with a capacity of 40,000 gallons. The water is chlorinated before it reaches the consumer. The following is a chemical analysis of the water which shows its freedom from more than traces of organic impurity:—

Physical characters	Clear and bright
Reaction	Slightly alkaline
Total Solids	33.0
Alkalinity (as $CaCO_3$)	23.75
Total hardness	26.0
(*a*) Temporary	20.5
(*b*) Permanent	5.5
Chlorine (in terms of Sodium Chloride) ..	2.9
Nitrogene as Saline and free Ammonia ..	0.0006
,, ,, Albuminoid ,, ..	0.001
,, ,, Nitrates	0.2
,, ,, Nitrites	nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate (4 hrs. at 80 deg. F.)	0.02
Free Carbon Dioxide	1.1
Selica (as SiO_2)	0.06
Sediment	nil

There have been no changes or extensions of the water supply during the year. The supply of the area has been satisfactory in quality and as regards quantity the supply is constant and it has not been necessary to restrict the hours of supply. The margin of daily reserve over consumption is very small and to increase this reserve the Council has engaged a firm of Consulting Engineers with a view to sinking a bore-hole. Much preliminary work has been done in surveying, etc., and it is hoped before long to acquire the site and commence trial boring.

The Augmentation Scheme of taking water from the bore at Messrs. Aplin & Barrett's Creamery continues in use and has been very helpful in maintaining a constant supply. Up to 20,000 gallons per day may be taken from this source, which has a similar chemical analysis to the main supply.

Four samples of raw water, taken at the source and before passing into the mains, and four samples of chlorinated water, taken from consumers taps, were bacteriologically examined and all gave satisfactory results. The raw samples gave Excretal B.coli less than 10 present per litre and no Streptococci and the chlorinated samples each gave Excretal B.coli and Streptococci absent from 50 c.c.

The water is not liable to have any plumbo-solvent action, it is somewhat hard, the temporary hardness being 20.5, permanent hardness 5.5 and total hardness 26.0 parts per 100,000.

It has not been necessary to take action in respect of any form of contamination.

The proportion of dwelling-houses and the proportion of the population supplied from the public mains is as follows:—

(*a*)	Water laid direct to houses	91.79%
	Population supplied	92.27%
(*b*)	Houses supplied by means of standpipes	4.27%
	Population supplied	4:26%

There are 40 wells serving 68 dwellings in the District which are unable to obtain water from the public mains chiefly on account of the dwellings being an unreasonable distance from the mains and their inaccessibility.

Sewage Disposal.—The reconstruction of the Tone Sewage Disposal Works took place between the years 1935 and 1936, and during 1939 additional sludge beds were constructed at a higher level and the sludge drying area widened to twice its former capacity. The Works consist essentially of continuous flow settlement tanks, the effluent from which is pumped on to sprinkler aeration and bacteria beds. The clarified effluent so formed discharges into the River Tone. It appears to be of Statutory quality and causing no nuisance in the River. The effluent was last examined during June, 1942, and its chemical analysis, shown as under, proves that the sample contained no excessive amount of suspended solids and absorbed no excessive amount of dissolved oxygen:—

(All results in parts per 1,00000)

Number of Sample	S.142
Physical characters	
Liquid	Fairly clear
Sediment	Moderate
Odour	—
Reaction	—
Total Solids	—
Solids in suspension	0.7
,, ,, solution	—
Chlorine (in terms of sodium chloride) ..	8.6
Nitrogen as free saline Ammonia	0.090
,, Albuminoid Ammonia ..	0.040
,, Organic	—
,, Nitric from Nitrates	2.6
Oxygen absorbed	
4 hours at 80 deg. F.	0.3
3 min., at	—
Dissolved Oxygen absorbed	—
After 5 days incubation 65 deg. F. ..	1.4
Putrescibility	—

In addition to the above main Sewage Disposal Works, there is a smaller works dealing with a limited amount of sewage to the South of the Town, known as Mitchell's Pool. Its effluent was unsatisfactory and causing a nuisance to the nearby stream into which it flowed. During the year the existing sedimentation tank has been converted into two settlement tanks, a dosing chamber has been built together with a new 50 feet circular filter with revolving arms. There has also been erected four sludge beds, each 23 feet by 14 feet and a pump house with a small petrol pumping unit. The latter is much too small to withstand prolonged use. It is intended that these works shall deal with future development in the Pyles Thorne area. They will not be capable, without further enlargement, of dealing with any large scale development on the Priory Estate.

The drainage of the Town is by a combined system, that is, the sewers receive not only the sewerage proper but also any rain water that falls in the area.

The River Tone bounds the Town in the North and West. The treated effluent of a Woollen Factory passes into the River as well as the effluent from the Sewage Works. In addition there is a winding stream which passes through the Town, known as the Town Stream; it is subject to pollution and discharges into the Tone.

The water carriage system is practically universal in the District, though not all closets have flushing cisterns. There are 29 dwellings which have water closets not connected to the sewer. With the exception of 10 houses at Spypost and Bagley and 5 at Westford and 5 at Payton, the others are large houses and farms on the outskirts of the town.

As far as can be ascertained no crude sewage is discharged untreated, but from 8 dwellings at Westford slop water enters the stream in an untreated state.

64 houses are served by earth closets. These are all in areas where no sewer is available and in the more rural parts of the District, mainly at Farthings Pitts, Westford, Winsbeer, Rackfield and Payton.

Public Cleansing.—This is satisfactory and undertaken by the Council; premises are visited about twice a week. The Council also removes and disposes of the Trade Refuse of the Town. There are no tips for refuse. The Council purchased in 1926 a Heenan & Froude's single chamber destructor with a forced draught by a fan and run by a petrol engine.

As a war-time measure certain materials are still Salvaged by the Council and Toc H. from the refuse collected, as follows:—

	By the Council.		*By Toc H.*	
	Tons.	*Cwts.*	*Tons.*	*Cwts.*
Paper	35	7	28	10
Bones	4	9	2	8
Rags	3	0	2	11
Metal—Ferrous	1	5	1	0
,, —Non-ferrous	—	—	—	—
Kitchen Waste	46	18	—	—
Rubber	5	6	1	5

Eradication of Bed-bugs.—No Council or other houses have been found to be infested with bed-bugs during the year.

Offensive Trades.—There are no offensive trades in the District within the meaning of Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Camping Sites.—There are no recognised camping sites in the District and it has not been necessary to issue licences under Section 269 (2) of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Smoke Abatement.—There have been no nuisances arising from industrial premises and consequently no action has been taken under Section 101 of the Public Health Act, 1936, neither have any complaints been received.

Schools.—The sanitary conditions of the schools in the area continue to be satisfactory and they are all on the public water supply.

Owing to the number of school-age evacuees still in the area, and several of the senior children coming in daily from the rural areas, accommodation has been cramped and the use of a large house known as "The Lawns" and Trinity Church has continued.

Swimming Baths and Pools.—There is one privately-owned open-air swimming pool in the District which is open to the public and is made considerable use of during the summer months and at times it becomes overcrowded. The capacity of this pool is only 65,625 gallons. Five samples of the water were taken, of which two were unsatisfactory due to an excessive number of B.coli. The probable explanation for this was that owing to the lack of make up water, ammonia accumulated and the ratio of chlorine to ammonia was not sufficiently high to maintain an effective sterilising dose. The great drawback to privately owned swimming pools is that proprietors are over inclined to study economy by conserving the use of sterilizing agents and thereby making supervision more difficult.

The Local Authority has definite powers of control over privately owned swimming baths and pools, the powers being available under Sects. 92 and 287 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The Sanitary Inspector Reports as follows:—

Nature and Number of Inspections during the year:—

Dwelling-houses	77
Premises where Food is sold or prepared	29
Bakehouses	18
Infectious Disease enquiries and disinfections, etc. ..	15

Number of Notices served during the year:—

Informal Notices	36
Statutory Notices	0

Results of Notices served:—

Total Notices complied with	31
Notices standing over from 1944	5

Conditions remedied:—

Defective Drainage	25
Defective Sanitary Fittings	29
Dampness abated	5
Provision of New Water Closets	17
Miscellaneous	27

Disinfections were for the following conditions:—

Tuberculosis	4	Scabies	4
Scarlet Fever	6	Vermin	1

Shops Acts, 1912 - 1938.

Certain powers relating to health and comfort and sanitary provisions are delegated by the County Council to this Authority and 29 inspections have been made. The defects found were mainly of a minor character and all were rectified by informal action. The number and types of defects which were rectified were as follows:—

Repair of Sanitary Conveniences	4
Limewashing	2
Abatement of Nuisances	3
Provision of additional Sanitary Conveniences ..	2

It was not found necessary to take action in relation to additional light, ventilation and heating arrangements.

Bakehouses.—There are four bakehouses in the District and 18 inspections were made of them. They are all kept in a satisfactory condition and are all on the public water supply.

Meat Supply.—Under the Live Stock (Restrictions on Slaughtering) Order, 1940, slaughtering of animals for human consumption is carried out only at certain specified slaughter-houses, and the meat, after inspection, is distributed over a very large area. The slaughter-houses serving this District are situated in the Borough of Taunton and in the Taunton Rural District, where the Sanitary Inspectors of those Districts carry out inspection before distribution and it is satisfactory to note that the percentage of unfit meat that escapes their vigilance is infinitesimal.

The following quantities of foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption and surrendered by the owners:—

75 Tins of Meat
151 Tins of Fish
31 Tins of Condensed Milk
236 Tins of Fruit, Vegetables, Jam, Soup, etc.
160 lbs. of Butchers' Meat
73 lbs. of Bacon
442 lbs. of Dried Fruit
6 cwts. of Potatoes
336 lbs. of French Beans in Brine
290 lbs. of Fresh Fish
448 lbs. Butter
42 lbs. of Cheese

Up to 1939, there were seven Registered and two Licensed Slaughter-houses in the District.

Milk Supply.—The inspection of Farms and Dairies and the taking of Samples of Milk under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938, were continued during the year.

Of the 16 farms in the District 7 are supplied with water from the Public Supply, the remaining 9 are too far from the water mains to make the supply available. Two of the above 7 farms were connected to the water mains during the year.

Structural improvements to cowsheds and dairies have been continued to be made. One cowshed and dairy has been completely reconstructed and the producer was granted a licence to produce accredited milk and has now applied for a licence to produce T.T. milk. At another farm at the close of the year, arrangements were well in hand for reconstructing the cowshed with a view to producing accredited milk. Improvements such as new concrete floors, drainage, additional light and ventilation have been made without undue difficulty and it has not been necessary to serve notices to enforce this work.

Generally speaking the dairy farms are kept in a satisfactory condition and the milk producers are realising the advantages to themselves and the consumers of a wholesome and clean milk supply.

The number of samples of milk taken and examined by the County Bacteriologist was 25. The analytical results are shown in the following table:—

Designation.	*No. of Samples taken.*	*No. found unsatisfactory*	*No. found satisfactory*	*Per cent. unsatisfactory*
Pasteurised	15	4	11	26.6
Accredited	7	1	6	14.2
Examined for tubercle bacilli	3	—	3	—
Totals ..	25	5	20	—

Tuberculosis Order, 1925.—No cows were slaughtered under this Order during the year.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Number of Producers on the Register	16
Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows:—	
(*a*) Distributors only	9
(*b*) Distributors who are also producers	5

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938.—Under this Order the following licences are in force in the District as issued by the County Council and this Council.

(*a*) County Council: Accredited Producers	2
(*b*) Wellington U.D.C.: To use the designation "Pasteurised"	2

HOUSING.

There has been only one case of serious overcrowding which was caused by the occupier of the house receiving lodgers and this was satisfactorily abated. A small amount of slight overcrowding exists due to evacuated persons still living in the District, but these cases are gradually declining. The number of good houses to meet requirements is still insufficient. The Council have sites for which lay-out plans are awaiting approval for the erection of 40 non-parlour houses, 74 parlour houses, 32 flats and 2 houses and shops (combined) at Longforth; 16 non-parlour houses, 8 non-parlour interchangeable houses of 2 or 4 bedrooms and 12 flats at Doctor's Meadow, Rockwell Green, and 8 flats at Church Green, thus providing a total of 192 dwellings. The total number of Houses owned by the Council at the end of 1944 was 318.

13 houses condemned under the Housing Act, 1936, continue to be occupied by temporary licences issued to the owners for re-occupation. This re-occupation of condemned houses is not an infringement of Section 155 (3) of the Housing Act, 1936, as it is a War Emergency measure designed to meet the acute housing shortage and is covered by Regulation 68A, Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. These houses are inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, who reports to the Council the minimum repairs, etc. necessary to bring them into such a condition of cleanliness and repair as to be reasonably capable of being used, as a temporary war-time measure, for housing purposes without detriment to health.

Where the owner has complied with the recommendations, the Council may issue a licence authorising the re-occupation of a house and the rent to be charged, but the licence is not operative for more than six months without renewal.

There are 27 condemned cottages occupied by official evacuees and 2 large houses used as communal billets in which 16 families are accommodated.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

The following is the number of persons who were officially billeted in the District under the Government Evacuation Scheme at 31st December, 1944:—

Unaccompanied children	86
Mothers	74
Accompanied children	101
Teachers	7
Helpers	5
Adults	94
Communal Billets, Cottages, etc. ..	190
Total ..	557

This total of 557 persons may be compared with 1,548 persons in 1940, 803 persons in 1941, 259 persons in 1942, and 287 persons in 1943.

There are in the District, in addition to the above total, a considerable number of private evacuees of whom no official records are available.

PREVALENCE, AND CONTROL OF, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table gives the number of notifications received for Notifiable Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis), and the local notification rates compared with those of England and Wales taken as a whole, per 1,000 civilian population, except Puerperal Pyrexia.

Diseases Notified.	*No. of Notifications received.*	*Notification Rates* *Wellington U.D.*	*Eng. & Wales*
Scarlet Fever	7	1.00	2.40
Measles	9	1.28	4.16
Whooping Cough	4	0.57	2.49
Erysipelas	2	0.28	0.29
Malaria (imported)	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia (per 1,000 total births)	7	—	10.34

The Puerperal Pyrexia rate for the District has not been given in the above table because it would be purely fallacious. Actually, no cases of Puerperal Pyrexia coming under the Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia Regulations, 1926, were notified by Medical Practitioners as occurring within their practices. All 7 cases were notified as occurring in the Wellington Maternity Home and of these, 3 were local mothers and the other 4 belonged to outside districts. The cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital for treatment and made a complete recovery.

As the Urban District is one of the Constituent Authorities forming the Taunton and District Joint Isolation Hospital Board, a report and summary of the work done there during 1944 will be found at the end of this Report.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.—For the third year in succession, no cases of Diphtheria have occurred in the District. Time will show whether this may be attributed entirely or partly to Immunisation against Diphtheria. Diphtheria Immunisation is being carried out by the Medical Staff of the Somerset County Council and by General Medical Practitioners in the District. The Scheme commenced in Wellington Urban District during 1941. The following figures show how the Scheme is progressing but relate only to Somerset Children in the area and not to Government or other Evacuees:—

Year	*Pre-School Children Age Group 0-5*	*School Children Age Group 5-14*
1941	239	609
1942	68	82
1943	40	50
1944	91	55
Totals	438	796

Based on figures (not for publication) supplied by the Ministry of Health on estimates of the local child population aged 0-14 years at mid 1944, give the percentages immunised furing 1944 as 0-5 years 11.43 and 5-14 years as 4.55.

The importance of Immunisation against Diphtheria may be shown by two facts, amongst many others, that the Mortality Rate for Diphtheria in England and Wales during 1944 showed a killing rate 2nd only to Whooping-Cough, which heads the list of mortality figures for Infectious Diseases, during that year, the figures being—Whooping Cough 0.03 and Diphtheria 0.02 per 1,000 Civilian Population; and that in the two years combined 1942 and 1943 (latest information) the estimated rate of dying from Diphtheria was approximately 23 times as great amongst the non-immunised as amongst the immunised.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases and number of Deaths from Tuberculosis are shown in the following Table:—

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		*Non-Respiratory.*		*Respiratory.*		*Non-Respiratory.*	
Age Periods.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
15—20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—35	3	1	—	—	1	1	—	1
35—45	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45—55	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 & upwards	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals.....	5	4	1	1	1	6	1	1

At the end of the year there were 66 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 11 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the Register kept for this disease relating to this District.

No action had to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Tuberculosis in the Milk Trade, nor under Sect. 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

The Local Authority have no special arrangement of their own under Sect. 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for assisting in the prevention of blindness and in particular for the treatment of persons ordinarily resident within their area who are suffering from any disease of, or injury to, the eyes. This power is exercised by the County Council. Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, which used to be a potent cause of blindness, must be notified by the notifying practitioner direct to the Medical Officer of Health of the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority (which in this case is the County Council) under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Amendment Regulations, 1937. Prompt and early treatment is thus obtained and most of the cases are sent to the Isolation Hospital for treatment.

TAUNTON & DISTRICT JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.

Report of the Medical Superintendent for the Year ended 31st December, 1944.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The work at the Hospital during the year may be described as normal. There is still the continuing difficulty of obtaining suitable Nursing and Domestic Staffs, but the position has been ably met by the Matron and the willing work of her Staffs so that the patients have not suffered in any way from lack of attention.

There were 288 admissions against 301 in 1943, but 8919 patient days against 8847. As there were 39 admissions for Puerperal Sepsis and Septic Abortion against 35 in 1943, the increased number of patient days despite fewer total admissions may be partly accounted for because these cases are usually very ill and require a long period of careful nursing.

There were 6 deaths during the year compared with 4 during the previous year, due to:—Diphtheria 1, Acute Infective Summer Diarrhoea of Infants 2, Purpura Haemorrhagica 1, the probable cause of which was fulminating Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis (died 30 minutes after admission), Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis 1, Staphylococcal Meningitis 1.

15 operations were performed against 3 in 1943. They were:—

Caesarian Section combined with Hysterectomy 1.

Appendicectomy 3 (complicated with Measles, Mumps and Diphtheria respectively).

Breast Abscess 2.

Tracheotomy 1.

These were all performed by the Board's Surgeon, Mr. Nicholson-Lailey.

Tonsillectomy 7 (by Mr. Graeme Allen 6 and Mr. Ellis 1).

Extraction of teeth for Acute Ulcerative Gingivitis by Mr. Garrett.

The Theatre was also used for 62 Artificial Pneumothorax Refills in connection with cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

There were 46 admissions to the Tuberculosis Sanatorium. 27 were discharged, and 18 died. The total patient days for these cases being 7,239.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. DE V. KING,

Medical Superintendent.

February, 1945.

TAUNTON & DISTRICT JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL BOARD.

TABULATED STATEMENT OF CASES Etc., FOR YEAR, 1944.

DISTRICT	Admitted	Brought Forward	Remaining Dec., 1944	Discharged	Died	Patients Days	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Diphtheria Carrier	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	Meningo- Encephalitis	Dysentery	Dysentery Carrier	Measles	Chicken Pox	Endocarditis & Nephritis	Peliosis Rheumatica	Rectal Abscess	Tonsillitis	Vincents Angina	Poliomyelitis	Rubella	Scabies	Contact Infant Scabies	Purpura	Erythema	Erysipelas	Dermatitis	Ringworm	Impetigo	Whooping Cough	Gastro-Enteritis	Enteritis	Coeræmia	Mumps	Laryngismus	Varicella & Gingivitis	Gingivitis	Staphylococcal Mengts.	Peritonsillar Abscess	Asthma & Bronchitis	Bronchitis	Septic Abortion	Puerperal Sepsis	Contact Infants	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nursing Mothers
Taunton Borough ...	107	13	6	111	3	3987	50	13	3	3	1	—	1	4	2	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	—	1	—	8	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wellington Urban	8	1	3	6	—	295	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Taunton Rural ...	42	10	—	51	1	1367	23	2	1	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wellington Rural ...	29	1	2	28	—	967	24	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bridgwater Rural ...	21	4	—	23	2	708	10	2	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dulverton Rural ...	2	—	1	1	—	71	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Authorities ...	15	—	—	15	—	330	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	5	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
War Office	8	—	—	8	—	118	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Maternity and Child Welfare																																															
Somerset C.C. M. & C. W. ...	42	—	—	42	—	772	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	27	6	4	2
Taunton Borough ...	10	—	—	10	—	219	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	8	1	—	—
Staff	4	—	—	4	—	94	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	288	29	12	299	6	8919	116	20	5	4	1	3	1	17	4	1	1	1	11	4	2	1	1	1	1	7	2	2	1	1	11	2	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	4	35	7	4	2